

# BERKELEY-SAKAI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION



Celebrating 50 years of Friendship, 1967-2017



バークレー・堺友好50周年記念

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## 2017 Annual Meeting & Potluck

Friday, March 10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Berkeley Methodist United Church  
1710 Carleton Street, Berkeley

Please bring an appetizer, a salad or side dish to serve 6, plus something to drink. Board will supply main course, dessert and beverages.

You are cordially invited to our dinner.

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## Welcome to 2017

*You are cordially invited to join or renew your membership in the Berkeley-Sakai Association. The Berkeley-Sakai Association is a non-profit organization, established in 1967, to promote goodwill and friendship between the citizens of Berkeley and our sister city, Sakai, Japan.*

*The Berkeley-Sakai Association has been active and successful in arranging student exchange programs, goodwill visits, school visits and programs, marathon runners, artist exchanges, kindergarten art exchanges, and individual visits and home stays with Sakai since 1967.*

*Our success comes from your support and contributions. Thank you for being a member. Your membership envelope is enclosed.*

*If you would like to receive information about future Berkeley-Sakai Association events, please include your e-mail address or visit us on Facebook or our website at [www.berkeley-sakai.org](http://www.berkeley-sakai.org) Please visit it periodically for we are continuously working on it.*

## **Proposed 2017 Board of Directors (to be voted on at the annual meeting)**

Chair: Gary Gibson

Vice Chair: Don Rising

Treasurer: Maria LaForge

Secretary: Linda Komendant

Auditor: Brad McCullough

Directors: Bonnie Borucki, Celina Borucki-Gibson, Juri Komendant, Atsuko Morse, Roy Nierenberg, Noriko Nishizawa, Cheryl Rego, Steve Rego, Carolyn Rising, Jay Sordean, Sally Stevens, Barbara Stevens Strauss, Chino Green

## **50 Year Anniversary for Berkeley Sakai: 1967-2017**

The sister city relationship between Berkeley and Sakai was established in 1967, and the Berkeley-Sakai Association was formed the same year for the purpose of promoting goodwill and friendship between the citizens of Berkeley and Sakai. For 50 active, wonderful years, our Association has organized cultural exchanges and goodwill visits between students, artists, city and government officials, university members, and individual citizens. We are grateful to everyone who has participated in our sister city programs and very much appreciate the Berkeley-Sakai members who have come before us and those who are now active in our sister city organization.

50 active years calls for a celebration and we hope you will come celebrate with us. We are fortunate to be collaborating with the UC Botanical Garden, the C. V. Starr East Asian Library, the Berkeley Art Center, Takara Sake, and Bay Area artists to bring you cultural events related to Berkeley, Sakai, and Japan.

Our celebrations begin with a visit by Mayor Takeyama of Sakai City, Mamoru Yoshikawa, Chairman of the Sakai City Council, the Principal of Osaka Prefecture University, and other Sakai dignitaries to Berkeley April 19-24, 2017. They will be formally greeted by Berkeley's Mayor Jesse Arreguin and City Council members. Activities planned during their visit include a formal tea ceremony, tree planting, and musical entertainment at UC Botanical Garden and sake tasting and taiko drums at Takara Sake. Activities scheduled during the Mayor's visit are summarized elsewhere in this newsletter. Our website - [berkeley-sakai.org](http://berkeley-sakai.org) - and the Berkeley-Sakai Association Facebook page will be updated to provide exact schedules and information for specific events. The events will also be posted on [botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu](http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu) (Calender Section) and [takarasake.com/sake-events.php](http://takarasake.com/sake-events.php). These are ticketed events open to the public.

An art exhibit of local artists with Japanese cultural influences will be presented at the Berkeley Art Center from April 18 to 22 in honor of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Berkeley Art Center. A Welcome Reception for Mayor Takeyama will be held at the art center the evening of April 20, with music and refreshments. Both the Berkeley-Sakai Association and the Berkeley Art Center thank the Berkeley Rotary Club for their participation and financial help in the early years of our sister city relationship and the birth of the Art Center.

The UC Botanical Garden and the Berkeley-Sakai Association will host six workshops during the year celebrating Japanese art and cultural. Workshops will cover origami, Japanese woodworking/joinery, flower arranging/chabana, textiles, calligraphy, and bonsai. Specific dates will be posted on the UC Botanical Garden website as well as the [berkeley-sakai.org](http://berkeley-sakai.org) website. Currently workshops are scheduled for June 11, July 16, August 13, September 17, October 22, and November 12. We hope that you and your friends will participate in these unique workshops at one of the Bay Area's most beautiful gardens.

In July the Berkeley-Sakai Association and the Berkeley-Sakai Girl Scouts will host an high school student exchange and a girl scout exchange from Sakai. Students and scouts will stay with host families, and the two groups will get together and enjoy fun activities, including a pool party and barbeque.

During the month of July, there will be an exhibit of rare books on the traditional Japanese tea ceremony, perfected by Sen-no Rikyu in Sakai, at the C. V. Starr East Asian Library. There is a very long history of perfecting different aspects of the tea ceremony handed down through the generations, many of which began in Sakai.

In October a Goodwill Delegation will travel to Sakai. Mayor Jesse Arreguin and Alejandro Soto-Vigil will join the delegation, commemorating a Berkeley mayoral visit not seen since the 1980's. The delegation of 26 Berkeley-Sakai Association members and our City officials will celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Sakai citizens and the bonds of friendship and cultural exchanges we have formed. It will be heart-warming to see our Sakai friends and visit with Mayor Takeyama once again.

After visiting Sakai, the delegation will tour Japan visiting Nara, Kyoto, Takayama, Matsumoto, Minakami, Nikko National Park, and Tokyo. We are very thankful to our friends and travel agents Victor and Kay Iwamoto (East & West Travel) who have come out of retirement to arrange this wonderful tour for us. Victor and Kay have arranged all our goodwill visits since 1997 and have chosen wonderful tour guides, hotels and places for us to visit.

Please come and celebrate our first 50 years of friendship and exchanges with our sister city Sakai. With your support, we look forward to the next 50 years and "Together" we can work towards "creating a peaceful world through friendship and cultural exchange."

### **Please make a special donation for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

This year is the Berkeley-Sakai Association's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and you can read about all the wonderful events happening elsewhere in this newsletter. Some of these events will cost our Association money that we frankly don't have in our coffers – hosting Sakai Mayor Takeyama and his staff for the events we have planned in April and hosting Association events for the Student Exchange in July are the primary extra needs this year.

There are a couple of ways that you can help our Association specifically for our 50<sup>th</sup>. Straight donations are always very welcome. If you are a regular donor, maybe you could give a little bit more this year. If it's been a while since you've donated, maybe this is the year that you make that donation. Any amount is welcome. Secondly, we could use your participation at our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. Some of the events will generate a little money back to the Association to help cover costs for other events. Your attendance at the paid events will support the Association and will also be culturally rewarding and enjoyable for you.

As an added incentive, we have worked with Berkeley-Sakai Bridge Artist, John Watson, to offer a special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary poster to those donating \$100 or more to the Berkeley-Sakai Association. If you

would like a signed copy by the artist, on quality rag paper, a donation of at least \$200 would be appreciated. Signed copies are numbered and limited to 125 total so don't hesitate! You can view the poster and get more information on it by going to the Membership tab at our website ([Berkeley-Sakai.org](http://Berkeley-Sakai.org)).

We will also be producing 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-shirts and polo shirts that will be available at our events. Both will be highlighting our Berkeley-Sakai emblem representing the combining of both cities (Berkeley with the California Poppy and Sakai's triple trident). They are still being designed, but the plans are for the polo shirt to honor the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with sayings in both English and Japanese, with the T-shirt sporting a beautiful work of art that you will want to wear again and again.

We are also looking for Corporate Sponsors to include in our brochures and website, so if you have a business, know someone that does, or you work for a company that might be a sponsor, please contact us at [info@berkeley-sakai.org](mailto:info@berkeley-sakai.org) for more information.

So please, your Berkeley-Sakai Association needs your extra assistance this year for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. We normally run with a very small annual budget made up primarily of donations from faithful supporters and as always we are an economically efficient, all-volunteer, non-profit organization. For this year's activities we need a little bit more than usual. Any amount you donate would be most appreciated (and don't forget company matching!).

Donations can be made using PayPal or credit card on the website ([Berkeley-Sakai.org](http://Berkeley-Sakai.org)), or using a check by mail to Berkeley-Sakai Association, 2000 Allston Way #1263, Berkeley, CA 94701-4065

## **Mayor Takeyama Visits Berkeley**

To kick off our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations this year, Mayor Takeyama and other Sakai City officials will visit Berkeley April 19-24, 2017. As of this writing, we are still in the planning stages, but we have a number of events planned for his visit. Mayor Arreguin will meet with him on Thursday, April 20, and then give him a walking tour of downtown Berkeley. In the evening, a Welcome Reception will be held at the Berkeley Art Center in Live Oak Park. BAC will host a pop-up exhibit of local artists whose work has a Japanese influence. Hideo Date will provide background guitar music for our entertainment. Partnering with the UC Botanical Garden on April 21, there will be a traditional tea ceremony at Julia Morgan Hall and a tree planting near the Japanese section of the garden. Modern koto music will be performed by Shirley Muramoto and her group later in the day with wine tasting and light refreshments. Takara Sake will be the venue for taiko drums by Tatsumaki Taiko and sake tasting for our Sakai guests, local officials, and friends of the Berkeley-Sakai Association Saturday evening, April 22. UCBG and Takara Sake are ticketed events. The finale will be a Farewell Party (venue tbd) Sunday evening, April 23. All are welcome and encouraged to attend these activities. More detailed information will be posted on our website.

## **2017 Senshu Marathon Runner**

Berkeley's guest runner for the 24<sup>th</sup> Senshu International City Marathon is Rachel Valenzuela. She is a medic/firefighter with the Berkeley Fire Department. Rachel is 34 years old, married and has four kids!! She is a very busy lady! Her husband, Stephen Morgan (who is also a Berkeley firefighter), will accompany her to Sakai for the marathon. They will extend their stay and visit other parts of Japan before returning home. The marathon takes place on February 19, and they will be in Sakai February 17-23. Besides running the marathon, they will also visit Mayor Takeyama and a local elementary school and be hosted by a Sakai family.

## **New Student Exchange Program**

2016 marked the inauguration of a new high school student exchange program between Berkeley and Sakai. Five high school students (Rachel Hirota, Kelsey Hirota, Claire McCullough, Gaby Rego, and Elah Sordean) and four chaperones (Katie Sanbongi, Brad McCullough, Cheryl Rego, and Jay Sordean) visited Japan July 28 to August 8, 2016. Rachel and Kelsey are the granddaughters of Tad Hirota, one of the founding fathers of the Berkeley-Sakai Association. The other three girls are daughters of current Berkeley-Sakai Association Board members. While in Sakai (July 29 to August 2), they were hosted by Sakai families, gave a food preparation presentation at the Higashi Cultural Hall kitchen, and visited Mayor Takeyama. After their visit in Sakai, they traveled to Kyoto and Hiroshima and were present during the annual Peace Lantern Ceremony in Hiroshima.

2017 will bring six high school students and three chaperones from Sakai to Berkeley. The Sakai group will be here July 28 to August 2 and then travel elsewhere for a few days before returning home. The Berkeley families who went to Sakai in 2016 will host the 2017 students. The Berkeley-Sakai Girl Scouts will also have an exchange at the same time, and we plan to work together to entertain our visitors.

## **Berkeley-Sakai Website**

The Berkeley-Sakai Association (BSA) website is back, and better than ever!

Over the past year, the website committee consisting of Gary Gibson, Juri Komendant, Don Rising, and Chino Green have been meeting monthly to design and rebuild the website after it was hacked in 2013 and again in 2014. The result is a new highly secure and fully-responsive website that provides the same viewing experience on smart phones, tablets, TVs, computers, and other media devices.

The new website also allows visitors to make donations to the Berkeley-Sakai Association via PayPal.

The BSA website is immediately available at <http://berkeley-sakai.org>

Future plans include:

- Providing a complete collection of past issues of the annual newsletter (we currently have 2012-2017 available).
- Providing web galleries of the Kindergarten Art Exchange drawings from both the current and previous Exchanges
- Providing a calendar of events
- Hosting video clips of current (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) and past events, where appropriate
- Providing a Japanese language edition of the site

The Berkeley-Sakai Facebook page is still highly active and can be reached from the BSA website, or via the URL: <http://facebook.berkeley-sakai.org>

## **Berkeley-Sakai 2017 Digital Photography Exchange**

After a brief one-year hiatus, the digital photography exchange between high school photography students in Berkeley, California and Sakai, Japan is continuing in 2017. The Berkeley High School photography teacher, Mr. Gabriel Berent, is working on creating a new version of the Photography Exchange website where student work from both sister cities can be uploaded and highlighted. The tentative schedule for the exchange is February to early March.

This year's photography theme is: Generations. This provides an opportunity for students to photograph their elders, and their siblings and show the humanity that is all around us.

Please check the Berkeley-Sakai website at <http://berkeley-sakai.org> for details.

## **Kindergarten Art Exchange**

The students in Libby Trumbull's kindergarten class at Thousand Oaks School here in Berkeley provided the art for this year's exchange again. Their works included drawings of their faces completed in November with dictated text about activities they enjoyed at school and at home. There were also full body drawings completed in December with stories written completely by the students using "inventive spelling" as we teachers call it. They wrote about topics such as losing teeth, family members and thunderstorms. I hope we can put some samples on our website in April so that all of you can enjoy it as much as I did.

The art created by the kindergarten students in Sakai should arrive in Berkeley in mid March. It gets displayed in several venues including Thousand Oaks School. We are always looking for other safe venues. If you have a place in mind, please call our curator, Carolyn Rising, at 510 524-2490. Again—Many thanks to Noriko Nishizawa who translates all of the students' stories before we send their art to Sakai.

## **Brief History of the Berkeley-Sakai Association**

"The People-to-People Program was established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on September 11, 1956 to enhance international understanding and friendship through educational, cultural and humanitarian activities involving the exchange of ideas and experiences directly among peoples of different countries and diverse cultures. President Eisenhower felt that creating understanding between people was essential to building the road to enduring peace and envisioned programs such as city affiliations, pen-pals, stamp exchanges, international sporting events, musical concerts, hospitality programs, theatrical tours and book drives as the means to achieving that goal."\* Sister cities were part of the People-To-People Program.

On March 23, 1967, our sister city association was officially incorporated. The first directors were William Porter, Tad Hirota, Shigeru Jio, Harriet Wood, Irene Prescott and Maurice Smith. We have only gathered information about some of these founders. William Porter was a Methodist minister. Tad Hirota was an insurance agent who helped found a company to insure

Japanese Americans who were having trouble getting insurance after WWII. His granddaughters went last year on a student exchange to Sakai. Shigeru Jio's grandson Stephen, who lives in Ireland, recently contacted us to see if we had information about him. We found out that Shigeru was born in Japan in 1903, visited the U.S. in 1918, completed high school in Japan, and returned to the U. S. He was married at age 24 in Menlo Park to Saki, moved to San Francisco, worked in a factory, and had two children there. Later he lived in Contra Costa County and worked as a wholesaler and a grocer. In 1942 he was interned in Gila, Arizona and separated from his wife and children, who were put in a different camp. In the 1960's he was a travel agent, living in Berkeley with travel offices in Oakland and San Jose. He passed away at age 87. The relocation of the Japanese living on the west coast of the United States during WWII was a traumatic event in the history of Berkeley, and the founding of a sister city was seen as a response that might aid the effort to lessen the prospect of war with foreign nations in the future.

Interestingly, the original articles of incorporation mentions the term "Town Affiliation Program" first as part of the People-to-People Program and only mentions the term "Sister City Program" later in stating that it may establish facilities and hire personnel to carry out the program. The first goal stated in the articles, was to promote, encourage, foster and cultivate friendly relations between the peoples of the City of Berkeley and the City of Sakai. The second includes cultivating cultural, economic and educational exchange. The third is to encourage other cities to engage in the National Town Affiliation Programs.

Sakai was Berkeley's first sister city and it was 16 years later that the second of Berkeley's sixteen sister cities was established. Our association grew rapidly, and 10 years later in 1976, when Marie Gilchrist was president and Fumi Nakamura was secretary, 110 people voted at the annual meeting for the amending of the articles of incorporation to increase the size of the board and put the term "Sister City Program" more prominently in the document. The board size went from 6 to a range of 12 to 15. In addition to the two directors named above there were Barbara Takahashi, Asao Sukaki, Marilyn Fulrath, Claudia Bugatto, Frederick Sherman, Kimball Koch, Roger Bales, Tad Hirota, Gus Moore and Henry Garber. Gus Moore was Director of the Berkeley YMCA and with his wife Bea led the first Berkeley-Sakai Student Exchange in 1969, consisting of all college students. Roger Bales was a regional director of the Boy Scouts, and with his wife Jean led the student exchange to Sakai in 1975. By this time, there were high school and college students on the trip. Both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts had separate exchanges with Sakai. Many of the directors had children who participated in the student exchanges. Jack and Fern Harger's daughter Laurel went on the first exchange, and they later became very active in sister cities with Japan both here and in Santa Rosa. Some of the directors were Rotary members and both in Berkeley and Sakai, Rotary International helped found the sister city organizations. The Japanese American Citizens' League also supported the Berkeley Sakai Association, and in later years the Lions donated as well. In the first decade there was also generous financial support from the city of Berkeley.

Our organization has indeed cultivated friendship between the people of the two cities, and there have been many cultural, economic and educational exchanges. The programs have varied somewhat over the years. We have had friendship visits with mostly adults, but sometimes a few of their children as well, with short homestays, alternating between the cities about 2 or 3 years apart. The biggest program in the early years were student exchanges, where junior high, high school and college students visited their sister cities alternating every other summer. The trips were originally about 3 weeks long with two separate homestays and sometimes a small trip in the middle, including an activity such as camping. Students would also tour city hall, meet with the mayor, or see educational or historical features. Artists have had exchanges, including Kindergarten students sending art to be displayed in the other cities, digital photograph exchanges between high schools, and adult artist exchanges where artists have traveled and displayed their art in the other city. As far as athletic events go, there was once a girl's tennis team that traveled to Sakai and since 1994, Sakai has hosted runners of the Senshu Marathon. Many of the runners

we have sent have been members of the Berkeley Fire or Police Department. We have had visits by mayors both ways, and a number of small specialized groups visiting. During times of disasters such as the firestorm of 1991 or the Hanshin earthquake of 1995 the the organizations have offered support and commemorated the disasters afterwards. The firestorm garden was established by the Sakai Berkeley Association. A number of trees have been planted as a gesture of friendship and peace. Recently flowering cherry trees were planted near city hall in Berkeley, and a magnolia tree was planted in 1985 in the downtown park of Sakai each with commemorative plaques. There is a Berkeley corner in the Sakai Library and a Sakai Corner in Berkeley's.

The people-to-people experiences have resulted in long term friendships between people and also have influenced the career choices of students, with some students taking Asian studies or International Relations in college, for instance, and choosing occupations where they can use the knowledge of Japanese culture and language. We are very excited to be celebrating the fiftieth year of this very special and enriching friendship.

\*excerpt from: [https://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/research/online\\_documents/people\\_to\\_people.html](https://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/research/online_documents/people_to_people.html)

## **In Memoriam**

In January we lost one of our most devoted former Berkeley-Sakai Association members. Fern Harger passed away on January 14, 2017 in Grass Valley, California. She was 96 years old. Fern was born on October 20, 1920 in Lewistown, Montana, and relocated to California with her family in 1922. She was Valedictorian of San Ramon High School Class of 1938 and moved to Berkeley, where she worked for the California Farm Bureau. She met and married Jack Harger and they lived in Berkeley until his retirement from Cutter Laboratories in 1976, when they moved to Oakmont Village in Santa Rosa, California.

Fern was dedicated to community service and active in many volunteer activities. She lead several Berkeley-Sakai student exchange groups, hosted Japanese students visiting Berkeley, and served on the Board of the Berkeley-Sakai Association. In Santa Rosa, Fern founded the Friends of Kagoshima, which sponsors a student exchange program between Santa Rosa and Kagoshima. For her many years of dedication to international cultural exchange programs, she was bestowed the Order of the Rising Sun on behalf of the Emperor of Japan by Consul General Nagamine Yasumasa on July 26, 2010.

Fern's husband, Jack, died on January 24, 2007 at the age of 96. Fern is survived by her son, James Harger, and her daughter, Laurel Kenner, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Recently, Diana Rowlands also passed away. Diana was the wife of Kirk Rowlands, a former Berkeley-Sakai Board member, who died several years ago.